

SHIPPING.

ARRIVAL.
 January 30.—Warship, 300 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne, 25th inst.
 January 31.—Union, French brig, 240 tons, from Melbourne, 10th January.
 January 31.—H. M. S. "Herald," 600 tons, from Melbourne, 10th January.
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DEPARTURE.
 January 31.—H. M. S. "Herald," 600 tons, for Melbourne, 10th January.
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COASTERS INWARD.
 January 30.—H. M. S. "Herald," 600 tons, from Melbourne, 10th January.
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THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1855.
 EVERY Australian will read with profound interest and admiration the accounts of the mission of Mrs. NIGHTINGALE, and her angelic band. The sufferings of our gallant soldiers wounded in battle form the darkest part of the terrible story of war. If it be true that a common exposure renders the sympathy more active, it is not the less certain that repeated scenes of woe blunt the sensibilities of the heart. The official nurse is often—not always—the most unfeeling of mortals. Opportunities for neglect and spoliation are temptations to the mercenary attendant on the sick and dying, whose last agonies are rendered more intense by the callous hand and rough unfeeling voice. The fainting soldier turns back to the remembrance of his native village, to the tender touch of a mother, or sister, or still dearer friend, and feels the pang of a final separation aggravated by—of all loneliness, the worst, the solitude of the heart!

The Sisters of Mercy—for no difference of creed shall blind us to the beauty of Christian virtue, have set the example of an organized effort to relieve the sick and the dying. These excellent women have been long known in the scenes of woe.

But to them the praise does not exclusively belong; several religious bodies have ladies employed to tend the sick and friendless. These are the deeds which a Briton would desire should distinguish his nation, and which the Christian would accept as the best evidence of a religion "pure and undefiled."

The mission of Miss NIGHTINGALE will move the whole civilized world—we shall not have merely a record of battle, such as on the heights of Alma, but not less interesting for the fight with those diseases which follow the steps of armies. The hospital fever, often more destructive than the sword, has been frequently traced to the lack of that minute attention which the soldier requires when helpless and prostrate. The true valour of the soul displays itself not so much in the shock of battle, as in the daily risk of life within the atmosphere of death. The song which celebrates the victory of our heroes, will devote its most lofty and moving strains to celebrate the moral courage of the lady, whose voice—

"Sweet as the note of nightingale at eve," will cheer the dying soldier, or animate the recovering with new hope.

We do not wonder that the women of France were roused into characteristic enthusiasm by the presence of the messengers of a nation's sympathy. It is the regular course of things for a French damsel to sprinkle with flowers those whom she intends to honour, and by some external symbols to testify admiration. England feels not less deeply, but expresses her emotion in another way. Let the national mind realise the purity of motive, the strength of conviction, the fervour of the soul displayed by this noble band, and the bright image of such worth is engraved on the heart of the people for ever. Great moral inferences will be deduced, and the example will never die. In the days of Chivalry, the influence of womanly sympathy was often called to soothe the wounded soldier; and the education of a lady included some knowledge of the healing art. The reader will recall many passages founded on these customs in the verse and prose mission to the outskirts of the field of battle depicted by the great novelist tended to inflame.

In the ears of this sacred band how many a tragical tale will be told; how many a confidant to them the last messages and tokens of affection and blighted hope. They will stand over the dead, and drive off from their spoils the harpies of war, who have often received, only to betray, a dying confidence; and often committed to flames, to hide the proof of their dishonesty, the last lines of farewell dictated by a dying husband, son, brother, or lover, which would have been more precious to the bereaved than rubies. When the history of the Hospital shall be given to the world, it will sink into the heart of the nation as a solemn protest against the spirit of war.

Miss NIGHTINGALE will not obtain a peerage; but will be numbered with illustrious women. It is the glory of great merit that it drops all titles, and stands out when all the drapery of rank is tinsel and sand. ELIZABETH FRY, HARRIET STOWE, and FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE are destined to be household words; and Court honours would be about to the sun. Had Australia any token to give of much auxiliary to their lustre as a rushlight approbation, her best offering would be not a coronet of gold, but some means of succour to the soldier through the hands of our earliest mintage messengers of mercy; perhaps sent to the capital of the ancient world—the effigy of the British Queen, and the insignia of an infant nation—the first refuge of oppressed empires, and the last the destined asylum of the free.

EVERY one will remember the declaration of the Emperor ALEXANDER, in 1812, that, rather than make peace with the French, he would retire into Siberia. The Emperor NICOLAS emulates his brother—at least in brave words. We are informed that he has declared he will make no concession. Sevastopol, and the fleet contains, may be destroyed, Heligoland, Sveaborg, and Cronstadt may share the same fate, and the English and French flags may fly over St. Petersburg; but he will never yield. If driven to it, he will retire into the interior of his territory, and defy the Allies from his inaccessible fastnesses.

Thus has he resolved; but he evidently hopes to escape such an extremity. He is yet confident in his military power, and he appears disposed to carry the war into Central Europe. Now that the Allied fleets have withdrawn from the Baltic, and the storms and frosts of winter afford protection to his northern seaboard, he is directing his armed masses to the south and west of his empire. It is said that he was about to

join the army at Warsaw, whither his sons have preceded him, and that nearly two hundred thousand of his best troops were concentrated upon the frontiers of Austria.

At the same time, we learn that a Council of war has been held at Vienna, and that the Garrison of that capital had received orders to be ready to march to the frontier, at forty-eight hours' notice. The whole Austrian army was to be placed on the "war establishment," and everything seemed to point to hostilities between the two empires.

We confess that we are slow to believe that Austria is prepared to enter into an earnest and sincere alliance with the Western Powers; but all doubts on this subject must now be resolved in a short time. The KING of Prussia makes no secret of his leaning to Russia, and it is impossible to the Allies to watch his tortuous policy will lead him. It seems unlikely, however, that the Allied Governments will much longer permit him to remain armed, and observing a false neutrality, to wait the strongest side, when by doing so he can gain some selfish advantage.

Notwithstanding that we have had a year of war with Russia, we cannot say that we are fully acquainted with the military force and the resources of that power. There is an opinion prevalent in high quarters, that Russia has prepared for a long struggle, and that the Czar calculates on his unlimited command of men to overrun Europe. For the expenses of the war, he has the fortunes of his subjects, if other sources fail; and he may count on the plunder of the countries invaded by his hordes.

If such be the determination of the Czar, and if he has resolved to risk all upon the issue of a general war, we must manfully make up our minds to the struggle. A lingering doubt arises from the very madness of the enterprise; for, whatever may be the bloodshed, the devastation, and the misery which the ambition of the Czar is capable of inflicting, the end must be his own destruction. He is without an ally, unless Prussia joins him; and blind and base as that power is, we can hardly believe that she will commit an act so suicidal as taking up arms in support of Russian aggression.

The dominions of the Czar cover a vast expanse on the map, and he can dispose of the lives of millions of men; but his territories are ill-protected, and his heterogeneous races, which are called the Russian people, are ill-affected to his rule. His fleet is the laborious product of many years of peace; and if it is destroyed, no means exist of replacing it. Even human life, which seems to be the cheapest commodity in that great empire, is doubly expensive where the wealth of every proprietor is estimated by the number of souls on his estate. Every addition to the ordinary burdens of the peasantry creates discontent among the higher classes, while it inflicts cruel sufferings on the peasantry; and it is known, even through the secrecy imposed by the vigilance of the police, that the nobility are profoundly disinclined to the war, even if they are not disaffected to the sovereign. For them a hypocritical crusade has no charms to compensate for the losses and vexations which it must involve; and an unsuccessful campaign will, in all probability, ere long, give dangerous strength and utterance to the discontent which is at present hardly latent.

The Empire of the Czar is the growth of only two centuries, and many of the most important provinces have been annexed to it within the last seventy years. The population, violently or fraudulently brought under Russian dominion, has been governed with such oppression and injustice, and with such reckless contempt for their welfare, that they cannot be expected to make common cause with their rulers, or to enter upon the war with loyalty or enthusiasm. The Poles are certainly not animated by any affection for their cruel masters; forty-five years cannot have obliterated the memory of their former independence in Finland; and the Tartars of the Crimea already show their cherished hatred of their oppressors; and Bessarabia longs to be united with her sister provinces on the Danube. These are the sources of the internal weakness of Russia, and in all the battles of the present war we have seen her soldiers fighting, certainly with bravery, but without heart. The end of the war can be as little foreseen now as when it commenced; but it would be a denial of Providence to doubt the ultimate defeat of a Power that strains after selfish and unrighteous ends, and tramples human and Divine law under foot in the pursuit of an unholy ambition.

The Czar may persist in the war until his strong places are razed, his ships burned, and his armies ruined—he may retire into the interior of Russia, and declare himself unconquered, but in that event it will make little matter to the Allies whether or not he yields formally. He will be deprived of the power of making himself dangerous, and that is the object for which England and France took up arms. Be it remembered that England and France have entered into the war by a regard to their interests and their duties—Russia was forced into the war against both her interest and her honour.

INSOLVENT COURT.
 TUESDAY.
 Before the Chief Commissioner.
 In the estate of Thomas Andrews Speed, a third meeting. Debts amounting to £314 16s. 11d. were proved. The official assignee handed in his report, which was read to the meeting. The creditors allowed the insolvent to retain his furniture and wearing apparel, and to keep the house occupied by him in Stanley-street.

In the estate of William Gayton, a third meeting. Debts amounting to £157 3s. 7d. were proved. The official assignee handed in his report, which was read to the meeting. The insolvent was examined by Mr. Dixon, a creditor. The creditors directed the assignee to realise the whole of the assets, and the bills of Worthington and Grant, to be sold by auction.

In the estate of James Robinson, a second meeting. One debt, amounting to £196 7s. was proved. The insolvent and several witnesses were examined by Mr. Fawcett. The meeting then terminated.

MEETINGS FOR TO-MORROW.
 In the estate of John Stevens, Thomas May, John Whitby, a third meeting, at 11, at Mulgrave.
 In the estate of Henry King, a meeting of the creditors in this estate will be held at the late office of Henry King (in Macquarie and Adelaide streets), on Tuesday, the 13th proximo, at 10 a.m., to receive the final report of the trustees, together with composition bills. By order of the trustees, Alexander Thomson, 29th January.

NEW INSOLVENTS.
 James O'Hara, of Wollongong, farmer. Debts, £319 18s. 4d. Assets—Real property, £200; personal property, £10; goods, £25. Deficiency, £107 18s. 4d.
 John Macdonald, gentleman. Debts, £604 10s. 6d. Assets—Value of real property, £880; value of personal property, £350. Deficiency, £224 10s. 6d. John Morris, official assignee.

COURT OF REQUESTS.
 This Court commences its sittings on Monday day. The number of cases set down for hearing is 100.

CENTRAL POLICE COURT.
 TUESDAY.
 Before the Police Magistrate, Mr. E. C. Wokes, and Mr. M. Lewis.
 Singular to say, there was only one case of drunkenness on the list, and that was disposed of by the forfeiture of 10s. deposit. On the general list there were fourteen cases, nine of which were either paid or committed to the gaol. The sum of 10s. was paid in each case, one of which was postponed, and in one the defendant did not appear, in consequence of which a warrant was ordered to issue; a third case was for destroying glass and crockery, in which the defendant was ordered to pay 12s., the value of the damage, with 3s. 6d. costs. The fourth case was for keeping a house of ill-fame; the defendant, Mary Richards, was bound over to be of good behaviour for the period of one month in the penalty of £20. The prosecutor was Joseph Newcombe, who had been charged on a former occasion with a similar offence.

K. R. Kerr, a lad about 15 or 16 years of age, was charged with absconding from the service of John Logan, to whom he was apprenticed, as the lad admitted his offence, but refused to go back, whereupon the Bench committed him to gaol for 48 hours.

William Ridgley was brought up by Inspector Higgins, charged with neglecting to comply with an order of the Court. It seems that the prisoner, about a fortnight ago, was brought before the Court at the instance of his wife, who sued him for maintenance. An order was then made that the defendant should pay her 10s. per week, and that he should have immediately after given way to drinking, and neglected to make good the first payment, which became due nearly a week ago. The Bench sentenced him to pay the £1 in question, together with costs, and if he failed to do so, he was to be imprisoned until it was paid.

Mary Cullen, a girl about 10 years of age, was brought before the Court, charged by her mother with stealing £2 10s. Bridget Cullen, the mother, stated that she had lost a silver watch, which she valued at £2 10s., and that she had been informed that her daughter had stolen it. The Bench sentenced the girl to be imprisoned for 14 days, and to be whipped with 12 lashes.

His Worship here continued the consideration of the case of the woman who had been charged with stealing a watch. The Bench sentenced her to be imprisoned for 14 days, and to be whipped with 12 lashes.

John Grayson, collector and assistant to the firm of Messrs. Richards and Williams, a carcase butcher, was brought up by Inspector Higgins, charged with neglecting to comply with an order of the Court. It seems that the prisoner, about a fortnight ago, was brought before the Court at the instance of his wife, who sued him for maintenance. An order was then made that the defendant should pay her 10s. per week, and that he should have immediately after given way to drinking, and neglected to make good the first payment, which became due nearly a week ago. The Bench sentenced him to pay the £1 in question, together with costs, and if he failed to do so, he was to be imprisoned until it was paid.

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George Richardson, for drunkenness, was fined £5. James Cross and William Gillespie, seamen belonging to the Alice, were sentenced to be imprisoned, and kept to hard labour for three weeks, for refusing to proceed to sea.

Henry Lyas, master of the Queen of England, for using threatening language to the doctor's assistant, was ordered to keep the peace, to procure two sureties for each, and to enter into his own recognizance for £50.

Elizabeth Johnson, who was remanded from yesterday, upon the charge of stealing ten £1 notes, the property of her master, came before the Court again to-day. Mr. Roberts appeared for her, and Mr. Lyas for the Crown. His Worship stated that he did not wish Mr. Roberts to urge any plea in behalf of the defendant, being satisfied that the charge was not substantiated.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.
 YESTERDAY the sixth annual general meeting of the members of this society took place at their offices, Mr. T. H. Holt, jun., Secretary, read the following report.

REPORT.
 Sixth Annual Report of the Directors of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, for the year ending 31st December, 1854. The Directors have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of £1,000,000, being the amount of the subscription to the Society, and to state that the same has been applied to the purchase of land, and to the construction of buildings, and to the payment of the interest on the same.

The Directors have also the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of £1,000,000, being the amount of the subscription to the Society, and to state that the same has been applied to the purchase of land, and to the construction of buildings, and to the payment of the interest on the same.

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have been added to his policy, and probably the family would have had no less than £200,000 in addition to the £100,000 which was already in the hands of the family. The above are, however, only additions to the £100,000 which was already in the hands of the family. The above are, however, only additions to the £100,000 which was already in the hands of the family.

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THE LATE MR. B. BOYD.

His Majesty's Ship Herald arrived this afternoon, and brought the following interesting intelligence from the Solomon group of Islands.

Our last account of the previous proceedings here was that Mr. Boyd, who was arrested on the 6th December, at which time she was at Tanna. She proceeded direct to San Christoval, where she arrived on the 13th of the same month, and anchored in the harbour of Mr. Kuri. She remained there until the 27th, during which time parties on shore saw Mr. Boyd's name carved upon the trees in several places. San Christoval was not the island on which Mr. Boyd was reported to be murdered. A letter was also obtained purporting to be written by Mr. Boyd, and in his handwriting, dated October 6th, 1884, on which day he is reported to have left for Guadalcanar. The Herald took from San Christoval one chief and three other natives, for the purpose of communicating with the people of Guadalcanar, and on the same day, when off Cape Achaia, two other natives came on board, bringing a letter from Captain Truscott, giving an account of the proceedings of the Oberon whilst at the island, stating that they had obtained the skull of Mr. Boyd, and that the two natives, however, being the same as had proceeded in the Oberon to Guadalcanar, it was thought advisable to take them on board the Herald, for the purpose of acting as guides and interpreters, but they were of little use, the natives being very different.

On the 29th December, the Herald anchored off a village immediately westward of Cape Hunter on the island of Guadalcanar. The chief of the village came on board, and informed Captain Denham that the skull of Mr. Boyd had been sold to the captain of the Oberon, and that he had been taken to the village from the canoe house belonging to the chief of a neighbouring tribe, named Boakau, by whose hand it was positively stated Mr. Boyd fell.

Every enquiry was made, and large rewards were offered for any reliable intelligence to Mr. Boyd, but no result was obtained. It is believed that Boakau had appropriated to himself the whole of Mr. Boyd's effects.

They then enquired if they could obtain any of his bones, or portions of his body, by which his identity could be established, and he was promised the natives brought off a canoe load of bones and skulls, evidently belonging to various races.

One of the native chiefs, name Supe, was purposely detained on board with the intention of identifying the skull of Boakau, and was taken to the village of Boakau, situated 7 or 8 miles along the coast to the north-west. Supe was said to have been a witness of Mr. Boyd's murder, and he stated that Mr. Boyd was first speared and then cut down with an axe, and that the period of 12 months had elapsed since the moment of his arrival or afterwards could not be ascertained. On the 23rd the Herald anchored off Wana, and a large number of the natives came on board, and freely communicated with the vessel.

A message was sent ashore to induce Boakau to come, which, after some intreaty he did, but nothing could induce him to come up the ship's side; and an attempt to capture him was made, which failed, owing to the unwillingness of his canoe, which was pursued by the Herald, and he was captured on the shore. He succeeded in reaching the shore, and several shots were fired at him, and the following day it was reported he had died of his wounds. The next day a large armed party was landed, which, under the cover of the pinnace, with 12-pounders in it, proceeded to examine the woods in the various bays, but found no trace marked with Mr. Boyd's initials. The hut all along were searched, but they had been deserted by their inhabitants, everything having been carried off.

The boats then went to Wanders' Bay, the place where Mr. Boyd landed, and found the features of the spot to correspond with the description given by the crew of the Wanderer. A tomahawk was obtained from a native named B. B. Boyd, which it was ascertained had been purchased from Boakau; but whether purchased from the Wanderer or not could not be ascertained. They also found marks of H. M. ship Serpent having been at the island, and on the 31st December returned to Cape Hunter, to the 29th of January. The prisoner was taken to the ship, and the traces of Mr. Boyd having been found, on the 9th of January the Herald sailed for Sydney.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, SOUTH HEMISPHERE.

FROM 25th JANUARY TO 29th JANUARY, 1885.

	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th
Barometer	30.0	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4
Thermometer	65.0	66.0	67.0	68.0	69.0
Wind	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.
Force	1	2	3	4	5
Clouds	1/4	1/2	3/4	4/5	5/6
Direction	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.
Velocity	1	2	3	4	5
State of sky	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
Temperature	65.0	66.0	67.0	68.0	69.0
Humidity	65.0	66.0	67.0	68.0	69.0
Direction	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.
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